

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Amended Claim 1 is supported by, e.g., the description at the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 of the specification.

Amended Claims 5-7 are supported by, e.g., the description at page 7, line 18, through page 13, line 21, especially, for example, page 8, lines 1-5, and page 11, lines 7-9.

No new matter has been added.

The Office Action contains a single rejection. Referring to Section No. 2 at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 5-194915 ("JP '915"), JP 5-47249 ("JP '249"), JP 5-345881 ("JP '881"), WO 97/05206 ("WO '206"), or U.S. Patent No. 5,498,476 ("US '476") in view of any of U.S. Patent No. 4,604,153 ("US '153"), U.S. Patent No. 5,693,405 ("US '405") or U.S. Patent No. 6,680,098 ("US '098").

Applicants respectfully traverse.

None of the applied references discloses or suggests the claimed pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet comprising, *inter alia*, a base material comprising a polyolefin resin, wherein the polyolefin resin comprises at least a copolymer copolymerized by multistage polymerization comprising two or more steps. In particular, the references' complete silence with respect to a polyolefin resin comprising at least a copolymer copolymerized by multistage polymerization comprising two or more steps precludes the possibility that the references could provide the motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of any one or more of the applied references and arrive at the claimed tape or sheet.

Furthermore, Applicants have found that the use of a polyolefin resin comprising at least a copolymer copolymerized by multistage polymerization comprising two or more steps in the claimed tape or sheet yields a materially different product and advantageously permits the at least one of a character and a design constituted of a structure comprising recesses, protrusions or

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/624,500

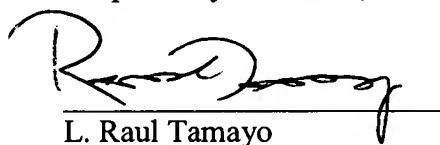
both of them united to the base material to be effectively retained for a long period of time. The achievement of a long retention time by using the claimed polyolefin resin in the claimed tape or sheet is not taught or suggested by the applied references, a fact which is not surprising given the references' complete silence with respect to the claimed polyolefin resin.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 1-9.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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